

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in this application and has been rejected. Claim 1 is now amended. Reexamination is respectfully requested.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of the priority claim.

The Election/Restriction

Applicants have noted the election without traverse of Species I. Applicants also note that in the election, claims 2 and 3 were pointed out as being dependent from claim 1, should claim 1 be found to be allowable they should also be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shinbori '613.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to further define the relationship between the concave portion and a first adhesion area between the solid state image sensor and the cover glass, and a second adhesion area between the cover glass and the circuit board. This is shown in Applicants' Figs. 1A and 1B where the concave portion 17 separates adhesion layers B₁ and B₂. In this example, the concave portion provides a buffer space between the two adhesion layers thereby providing a buffer space against moisture entering the air gap A_G. This is described in Applicants' specification [0025] last three lines.

In contrast, '613 discloses only a single seal 2. There is a glass plate 7 for sealing the chamber 1C. Ceramic layer 2 is disclosed as being bonded using soldering or sealing with an epoxy resin (col. 4, lines 10-16). However, '613 does not disclose the concept of two separate adhesion layers and the now claimed concave portion which forms a clearance between the two adhesion layers.

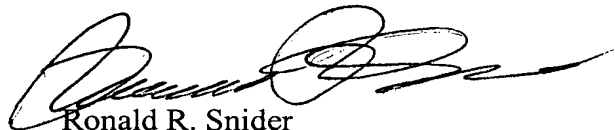
The concave portion also functions as a heat blocking layer for the air gap A_G as described in Applicants' specification [0026].

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants' amended claim 1 now clearly defines over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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RRS/scg

Date: January 16, 2008

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